

National Information Clearinghouse (NIC) - OSDBU

The Department of Transportation's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) operates a National Information Clearinghouse (NIC). The NIC serves as the central point of contact for the dissemination of program and procurement information, procurement forecasts, forms, data, public laws, orders and other similar publications related to small businesses and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE). The NIC also responds to inquiries and questions received through the dedicated toll free number, (800) 532-1169, by written correspondence, or by e-mail in the Feedback form on the website at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov>. In addition, the NIC maintains a customer database which contains small businesses and DBE data.

Businesses should register their firm with the DOT OSDBU office in order to receive information such as advance notification of conferences and outreach events, marketing material, procurement forecast data, and become eligible for procurement matching services.

How does a firm Register to do Business with OSDBU?

Businesses who have on-line access to the Internet can register with DOT's OSDBU at the OSDBU website Contractor Registration web page, located at: <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov:8080/>. Businesses can follow the easy to complete form and submit their data directly to the Contractor Registration Database. It is necessary for businesses to provide the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes for the purpose of automated procurement matching. It should be recognized that registering with the OSDBU for receipt of material, procurement matching notices, etc. is not a substitute for businesses to perform their normal marketing activities within DOT.

How does the procurement matching process work?

OSDBU accesses contract opportunities from the U.S. DOT Operating Administrations and the Commerce Business Daily (CBD). Once captured, the information is categorized into SIC code classifications and matched to the SIC code identified by the business during the registration process. These opportunities are then disseminated to registered firms. Businesses that have access to the Internet can perform their own searches from the OSDBU website at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov>. Please bookmark this site as it will provide current information on the status of OSDBU's efforts to further automate the procurement matching process. OSDBU also has a list server, which is capable of automatically notifying registered businesses of procurement matching information via e-mail.

To be included in the NIC database, a firm must submit a Contractor Registration Information Sheet either electronically, as described above, or by manually completing the Registration Information Sheet included in this booklet. Additional copies are available by request via the NIC at (800) 532-1169 or OSDBU's Fax-on-Demand system (request document #106) at the same telephone number.

Automated E-mail Server

The OSDBU has an automatic NEWS BY E-MAIL service. By registering on the OSDBU web site at <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/about/lists/lists.html> businesses can subscribe to receive DBE Announcements, The Transportation Link Newsletter, OSDBU News and Outreach/Conference Announcements.

